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News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the May and June edition of the Global Learning and Engagement newsletter.

My team and I presented at the recent International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) national symposium, focusing on the future of Australia-China school partnerships. Our presentation highlighted the Victorian Young Leaders to China virtual program, which integrates learning outcomes into the Victorian Curriculum, while also promoting student voice and collaboration with peers abroad. The symposium's opening keynote was delivered by Essie Ma, an alumna of Wellington High School and a previous recipient of the Victorian Global Learning Awards.

She spoke about her educational journey through Victoria University and her career path, providing attendees with insights into the unique challenges faced by international students. It was great to share our work on a national stage and meet with our key stakeholders, including our colleagues from Jiangsu, to talk about our education connections with Victoria's 45-year-old sister state partnership.

Last month, we were delighted to host the Women in School Leadership (WISL) participants from India in Melbourne. Indian and Victorian school leaders reunited for a week of professional learning on wellbeing and leadership at the Academy for Teaching and Learning. They also visited the Science Gallery Melbourne for the STEAM Careers Online Forum and toured various schools, including Rowville Secondary College and KIOSC Tech School, to see innovative programs and technology in action. The visit inspired new ways for Victorian and Indian schools to enhance virtual curriculum delivery. More information on their action research projects and video highlights from the program will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Wishing you a fantastic break filled with relaxation and fun.



Highlights from the Victorian Global Learning Awards 2024

The department recently hosted the 12th annual Victorian Global Learning Awards. The awards celebrate the valuable contribution international students make to our schools and community and acknowledge the tireless support role played by their teachers, principals, and homestay families. This year, the event welcomed over 170 guests, including consular representatives from China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Korea. The 2024 awards recognised 25 award recipients from across 10 countries and 15 Victorian schools.

Reflecting on her experience as the 2024 International Student of the Year, Shin Thant (Berry) from East Doncaster Secondary College shared a powerful message, 'Regardless of your age or experiences – be brave and take initiative with whatever you want to do in your life. Because you could be the youngest person in the room – or the oldest – but you have a voice and an opportunity to make the biggest difference in the whole wide world.'

To watch the Hall of Fame video featuring this year's award recipients, see: [2024 highlights](#).

Global learning partnerships and sister schools

Global Learning partnerships are meaningful, reciprocal and sustainable partnerships between two or more schools or educational institutions in different countries. These collaborations offer students genuine chances to explore diverse cultures and enhance language abilities. The partnerships allow schools to collaborate on curriculum projects, share ideas, and exchange students and teachers, leading to the formation of international friendships and the development of cultural understanding and skills.

The department's school education service managers in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and South Korea frequently facilitate sister school partnerships with Victorian schools. If your school is interested in exploring partnership opportunities with other countries, please contact us at: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au for more information.

If you already have a partnership with an international school, we'd be keen to include your school's case study in our upcoming global learning partnerships support package. To submit your case studies, email: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Call for expression of interest for new foreign arrangements

The expression of interest process is open for schools interested in forming new sister school partnerships or varying existing partnerships with international counterparts. This is in line with Australia's foreign policy objectives under Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 (the Act). Under the Act, schools submit a proposal to the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the International Education Division, before negotiating and entering into written arrangements with foreign entities.

If your school is considering a new sister school partnership or want to vary an existing arrangement, please complete the [School Foreign Arrangement Form](#) and [Sister School Memorandum of Understanding](#) and email both documents to ied.stakeholder.engagement@education.vic.gov.au by **9 August 2024**.

To learn more about the process, see: [Process Maps](#), or read the [FAQs](#) on our website.



Victorian Young Leaders to China virtual program 2024 – update

The Victorian Young Leaders to China virtual program is commencing in August 2024 for students in Years 9 and 10. This two-week intensive language and culture program will be delivered by Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) and Meg Languages on behalf of the department. The program includes immersive language lessons, active culture workshops, exciting virtual excursions, and authentic peer communication with high-school students in Jiangsu.

One of the program's highlights will be the Culture Quest activity, where students will navigate a virtual landscape of the Great Wall of China, completing engaging tasks and challenges that showcase Chinese traditions and modern life. This innovative, gamified approach to learning allows participants to apply their language skills in a fun and immersive environment while interacting with Chinese peers and teachers.

For more information, see: [Victorian Young Leaders to China 2024](#).

Professional Development



Strategies for embedding global learning in the classroom

[Generation Global](#) is offering a free webinar to support Victorian classroom teachers in empowering young people to connect and communicate with their peers globally. This professional development opportunity will help educators explore the differences between various communication methods commonly used in classrooms. Participants will learn why dialogue is particularly effective in engaging young people in critical thinking around global issues, enabling them to become more informed and empathetic global citizens.

Educators will also receive access to the Generation Global Teacher Portal, a valuable tool offering a wealth of teaching materials and tools to integrate dialogue into their learning community.

To sign up for the session, visit: [Dialogue Skills and Strategies for Communicating with the World](#) and complete the registration by **12 August 2024**.



Effectively Engaging Languages Learners

Modern Language Teachers' Association of Victoria (MLTAV) is offering a professional development opportunity designed for primary and secondary teachers of languages in Victorian schools. The event involves a full-day workshop to explore the possibilities and practicalities of contemporary Languages pedagogies and features expert insights, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities.

To register for the event, visit: [MLTAV](#).

School's In for Refugees course

Foundation House is delivering the School's In for Refugees free short course for educators at all levels to build their capacity to address the needs of children, young people, and families of refugee backgrounds. The program is supported by the department and is linked closely to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. The course will be delivered online over 3-half days.

To register, visit: [Foundation House](#).

For Students



Emerging Leaders Forum: Applications opening in Term 3

Applications for the 2024 Emerging Leaders Forum open in Term 3 for Victorian Years 5 to 8 students and overseas students from schools across the Asia-Pacific region.

The program aims to enhance engagement with the Asia-Pacific region and provides earlier level curriculum entry points for schools to help embed global learning and engagement activities into their teaching and learning and student engagement initiatives. Students participating in the forum benefit from carefully designed opportunities to strengthen their global competency and cognitive skills. They also gain enhanced leadership, voice, agency, and intercultural understanding, while exploring what it means to be a global citizen.

Registrations for primary and junior secondary close on the following dates:

- Program 1 – Emerging Leaders Forum (Primary) – Years 5-6: **16 August 2024**
- Program 2 – Emerging Leaders Forum (Junior secondary) – Years 7-8: **2 August 2024**

For more information, see: [Emerging Leaders Forum](#). To express interest in the program email: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

Resources



Listening from the heart: rewriting the teaching of English with first nations voices by Cara Shipp (2023)

The 2024 Refugee Week was celebrated earlier in June to inform the public about refugees and their contributions. This year's theme, 'Finding freedom - Family,' aimed to highlight the importance of family, near and far, including extended and chosen families, neighbours, and support systems in Australia that make the journey to safety possible and give hope in times of uncertainty.

The Refugee Week website provides a suite of below resources for teaching staff to help foster empathy and encourage a safe and welcoming environment for students and families from refugee backgrounds:

- [Multicultural education programs and resources](#)
- [Student Leaders for Multicultural Inclusion](#).

Readings on culturally responsive teaching

This article offers educators a carefully curated list of readings to deepen their knowledge and implementation of culturally responsive practices in the classroom. This professional development resource is ideal for helping teachers create inclusive, engaging, and effective learning environments for every student.

To explore the recommendations and enhance your teaching strategies, educators are encouraged to visit: [Culturally responsive teaching](#).

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